AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter (where underlining "_"

denotes additions and strikethrough "-" denotes deletions).

Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented)   A method comprising:

receiving a first frame from a station in a local area network, wherein said

first frame uses a first address as a medium access control address

for said station in said local area network;

assigning an association identifier to said station;

transmitting a second frame to said station via said local area network,

wherein said second frame comprises said association identifier

and uses said first address as the medium access control address

for said station in said local area network; and

receiving a third frame from said station via said local area network,

wherein said third frame uses a second address, rather than said

first address, as the medium access control address for said station

in said local area network;

wherein said second address is a combination of (1) a portion of said first

address and (2) at least a portion of said association identifier.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein said association identifier is unique among the stations that are currently active in said local area network.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting a fourth frame to said station via said local area network, wherein said fourth frame uses said second address as the medium access control address for said station in said local area network.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein said association identifier is 11 bits in length.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein said first address is 48 bits in length.

6.   (Currently Amended)   A method comprising:

transmitting a first frame from a station in a local area network, wherein

said first frame uses a first address as a medium access control

address for said station in said local area network;

receiving a second frame at said station via said local area network,

wherein said second frame comprises an association identifier

<u>assigned to the station</u> and uses said first address as the medium

control access address for said station in said local area network;

transmitting a third frame from said station via said local area network,

wherein said third frame uses a second address, rather than said

first address, as the medium access control address for said station

in said local area network;

wherein said second address is a combination of (1) a portion of said first

address and (2) at least a portion of said association identifier.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 6 wherein said association identifier is

unique among the stations that are currently active in said local area network.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 6 further comprising receiving a fourth

frame at said station via said local area network, wherein said fourth frame uses

said second address as the medium access control address for said station in

said local area network.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 6 wherein said association identifier is

11 bits in length.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 6 wherein said first address is 48 bits in

length.

11.   (Previously Presented)   An apparatus comprising:

(1)   a receiver for:

(i)   receiving a first frame from a station in a local area network, wherein said first frame uses a first address as a medium access control address for said station in said local area network, and

(ii)   receiving a third frame from said station via said local area network, wherein said third frame uses a second address, rather than said first address, as the medium access control address for said station in said local area network;

(2)   a processor for assigning an association identifier to said station; and

(3)   a transmitter for:

transmitting a second frame to said station via said local area network, wherein said second frame comprises said association identifier and uses said first address as the medium access control address for said station in said local area network;

wherein said second address is a combination of (1) a portion of said first address and (2) at least a portion of said association identifier.

12.　(Original)　The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said association identifier is unique among the stations that are currently active in said local area network.

13.　(Original)　The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said transmitter is also for (ii) transmitting a fourth frame to said station via said local area network, wherein said fourth frame uses said second address as the medium access control address for said station in said local area network.

14.　(Original)　The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said association identifier is 14 bits in length.

15.　(Original)　The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said first address is 48 bits in length.

16.   (Currently Amended)   An apparatus comprising:

(1)   a transmitter for:

    (i)   transmitting a first frame from the apparatus in a local area network, wherein said first frame uses a first address as a medium access control address for said apparatus in said local area network, and

    (ii)   transmitting a third frame from said apparatus via said local area network, wherein said third frame uses a second address, rather than said first address, as the medium access control address for said apparatus in said local area network; and

(2)   a receiver for:

receiving a second frame at said <u>apparatus</u> via said local area network, wherein said second frame comprises an association identifier <u>assigned to the apparatus</u> and uses said first address as the medium control access address for said apparatus in said local area network;

wherein said second address is a combination of (1) a portion of said first address and (2) at least a portion of said association identifier.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said association identifier is unique among the stations that are currently active in said local area network.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said receiver is further for (ii) receiving a fourth frame at said apparatus via said local area network, wherein said fourth frame uses said second address as the medium access control address for said apparatus in said local area network.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said association identifier is 11 bits in length.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said first address is 48 bits in length.